

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 AGR-20 AID-20 NSC-10 RSC-01

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 COME-00

PRS-01 PA-03 USIA-15 RSR-01 /121 W

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R 201241Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2922

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, TS

SUBJ: NORTH AFRICAN GRAIN SITUATION - TUNISIA

REF: (A) STATE 157784; (B) TUNIS TOAID A-061

1. LATEST UNOFFICIAL ESTIMATES ON 1973 WHEAT CROP JUST OBTAINED FROM TECHNICIANS RESPONSIBLE FOR PUTTING TOGETHER PRODUCTION FIGURES FOR OFFICE OF CEREALS ARE AS FOLLOWS IN METRIC TONS:

HARD WHEAT	539,300
SOFT WHEAT	268,715
TOTAL WHEAT	808,015
BARLEY	378,260

THESE ARE STILL PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES BASED ON FIELD SURVEYS. A MORE SCIENTIFIC ESTIMATE BASED ON A SAMPLE OF HARVESTED PLOTS SHOULD BE AVAILABLE IN SEPTEMBER.

2. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY RESPONSIBLE GOT TECHNICIAN IN OFFICE OF CEREALS THAT TUNISIA PRESENTLY PLANS IMPORT BETWEEN 100 AND 150,000 MT WHEAT IN FY 74. MOFA (REF B) FOR FY 74 HAD ESTIMATED 100,000 MT IN OTHER DONOR ASSISTANCE. HOWEVER, MISSION ESTIMATES, BASED ON PAST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TRENDS, THAT OTHER DONOR ASSISTANCE MAY AMOUNT TO ONLY

60,000 MT. IF THIS LOWER ESTIMATE IS CORRECT, WE WOULD EXPECT COMMERCIAL IMPORT REQUIREMENTS PRIMARILY FROM US NOT TO EXCEED 90,000 MT.

3. FEEDGRAIN IMPORTS WILL DEPEND ON GOT ABILITY TO IMPLEMENT NEW LIVESTOCK PROGRAMS AND EXTENT THEY USE BARLEY AS FEEDGRAIN. ESTIMATED BARLEY PRODUCTION OF 378,000 MT EXCEEDS SUBSTANTIALLY ESTIMATE OF 160,000 IN REF B. BASED ON HIGHER PRODUCTION FIGURE WE ANTICIAPTE NO BARLEY IMPORT REQUIREMENT IN FY 74; HOWEVER, WE FORESEE REQUIREMENT FOR UP TO 20,000 MT CORN IF CURRENT FEEDGRAINS PROGRAM REALIZED.

4. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, ABOVE FIGURES DO NOT YET REPRESENT OFFICE OF CEREALS OFFICIAL ESTIMATE. EMBASSY WILL SUBMIT REVISED ESTIMATES AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE.
SEELYE

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